

GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian

BARNUM'S CIRCUS RIDE

FORMER PITCHER COOPER BARNUM FINDS HOME BASE WITH GRIZ

SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

STATS, PAGE 2 • Q&A WITH DE ANDRES LEHRMANN, PAGE 4 • SPELTZ PICKS THE BIG SKY, PAGE 5



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2024 BY THE NUMBERS MONTANA

MONTANA (9-5)

	Griz	Opp
Scoring average	33.4	25.9
Rushing yards	3066	2411
Avg./Rush	5.5	3.9
Passing	279-458-8	238-408-13
Passing yards	3011	2968
Average per pass	6.6	7.3
Total offense	5752	5014
Average per play	6.0	5.4
3rd-down conv.	75-179	70-183
4th-down conv.	17-28	6-20
Red zone scores	49-57	40-47
Time of possession	29:20	30:35
Fumbles-lost	13-7	15-6
Kick returns	43-21.7	50-23.1
Punt returns	18-17.9	17-6.4
Punting	54-42.7	62-40.4
Sacks by-yards	28-212	29-194

Montana	89	115	124	139	0	-	467
Opponents	83	76	78	118	7	-	362

OFFENSIVE LEADERS

Rushing

- RB Eli Gillman 167-1104 (6.6 ypc), long 69, 15 TDs
- RB Nick Ostmo 124-769 (6.2 ypc), long 62, 3 TDs
- RB Malae Fonoti 36-234 (6.5 ypc), long 24, 1 TD
- QB Keali'i Ah Yat 57-159 (2.8 ypc), long 32, 7 TDs
- RWR Xavier Harris 15-142 (9.5 ypc), long 40
- QB Logan Fife 57-135 (2.4 ypc), long 22, 5 TDs
- RB Stevie Rocker Jr. 28-126 (4.5 ypc), long 23, 2 TDs
- WR Aaron Fontes 5-68 (13.6 ypc), long 29, 1 TD
- WR Lekeldrick Bridges 1-5
- WR Junior Bergen 1-2
- QB Kaden Huot 1-2
- OL Lucas Freitas 0-0, 1 TD

Passing

- QB Logan Fife 167-263-2, 1890 yards, long 81, 14 TDs
- QB Keali'i Ah Yat 112-189-6, 1121 yards, long 44, 7 TDs
- WR Junior Bergen 0-4-0
- WR Ryan Simpson 0-1-0
- TM Team 0-1-0

Receiving

- WR Keelan White 57-628 (11.0 ypc), long 26, 4 TDs
- WR Junior Bergen 48-542 (11.3 ypc), long 55, 3 TDs
- WR Sawyer Racanelli 30-409 (13.6 ypc), long 81, 2 TDs
- WR Aaron Fontes 41-407 (9.9 ypc), long 35, 1 TD
- WR Xavier Harris 20-274 (13.7 ypc), long 37, 3 TDs
- RB Eli Gillman 18-176 (9.9 ypc), long 68, 2 TDs
- RB Nick Ostmo 20-144 (7.2 ypc), long 27, 1 TD
- TE Erik Barker 11-103 (9.4 ypc), long 29, 3 TDs
- RB Stevie Rocker Jr. 7-90 (12.9 ypc), long 34
- WR Drew Deck 7-78 (11.1 ypc), long 18
- TE Evan Shafer 6-61 (10.2 ypc), long 20
- TE Cole Grossman 4-24 (6.0 ypc), long 10
- RB Malae Fonoti 3-19 (6.3 ypc), long 10
- TE Jake Olson 3-18 (6.0 ypc), long 9, 1 TD
- WR Ryan Simpson 2-18 (9.0 ypc), long 13
- WR Lekeldrick Bridges 1-6
- WR Ian Finch 1-2, 1 TD

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles

- LB Ryan Tirrell, 106, 43 solo
- S Jaxon Lee 92, 41 solo
- LB Riley Wilson 83, 30 solo



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana’s Junior Bergen (5) returns a punt for a touchdown while Tennessee State’s Mark Shenouda pursues on Nov. 30 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Bergen scored two touchdowns on punt returns, tying the FCS record with eight career punt return scores.

- S Ryder Meyer 79, 36 solo
- LB Vai Kaho 63, 15 solo
- CB Ronald Jackson Jr. 57, 40 solo
- DE Hayden Harris 52, 31 solo
- CB Trevin Gradney 49, 26 solo
- DE Hank Nuce 43, 22 solo
- S Chrishawn Gordon 34, 19 solo
- S Tyson Rostad 33, 14 solo
- LB Caleb Otlewski 33, 13 solo
- DE Andres Lehrmann 32, 10 solo
- S TJ Rausch 29, 12 solo
- CB Jace Kluczewich 27, 14 solo
- NT Pat Hayden 19, 6 solo
- NT Jareb Ramos 19, 4 solo
- CB Kyon Loud 18, 12 solo
- LB Garrett Hustedt 18, 6 solo
- DE Noah Kaschmitter 18, 5 solo
- CB Tanner Huff 15, 6 solo
- LB Geno Leonard 15, 5 solo
- CB Kenzel Lawler 11, 7 solo
- RB Stevie Rocker Jr. 10, 4 solo
- LB Cooper Barnum 9, 4 solo
- DE Matai Mata’afa 8, 6 solo
- WR Drew Klumph 7, 6 solo
- LB Isiah Childs 6, 3 solo
- NT Jake Mason 6, 0 solo
- WR Sawyer Racanelli 4, 4 solo
- TE Erik Barker 3, 3 solo
- S Kade Boyd 3, 1 solo
- CB Prince Ford 2, 1 solo
- LB Erich Osteen 2, 1 solo
- LB Clay Oven 2, 1 solo
- DL Dylan Smith 2, 1 solo
- LB Hayden Opitz 2, 0 solo
- LB Cy Stevenson 2, 0 solo
- WR Junior Bergen 1, 1 solo
- OL Liam Brown 1, 1 solo
- K Grant Glasgow 1, 1 solo
- P Ty Morrison 1, 1 solo
- DL Brendan Murphy 1, 1 solo

- S Kade Cutler 1, 0 solo

Tackles for loss

- DE Hayden Harris 17.0-112
- LB Riley Wilson 11.5-79
- LB Ryan Tirrell 6.5-18
- DE Hank Nuce 6.0-25
- LB Vai Kaho 5.0-10
- DE Andres Lehrmann 4.0-22
- LB Caleb Otlewski 3.5-16
- NT Pat Hayden 3.5-12
- S Ryder Meyer 3.0-10
- DE Matai Mata’afa 3.0-9
- S Jaxon Lee 3.0-7
- DE Noah Kaschmitter 2.5-21
- S Chrishawn Gordon 2.5-4
- CB Trevin Gradney 2.0-2
- S TJ Rausch 1.5-5
- CB Ronald Jackson Jr. 1.0-2
- S Tyson Rostad 1.0-1
- S Jace Kluczewich 0.5-0

Sacks

- DE Hayden Harris 9.5-94
- LB Riley Wilson 4.5-41
- LB Caleb Otlewski 2.5-15
- DE Noah Kaschmitter 2.0-20
- LB Ryan Tirrell 2.0-10
- DE Andres Lehrmann 2.0-7
- DE Hank Nuce 1.5-8
- NT Pat Hayden 1.0-7
- DE Matai Mata’afa 1.0-6
- LB Vai Kaho 1.0-3
- S Tyson Rostad 1.0-1

Interceptions

- S Jace Kluczewich 4-61
- LB Garrett Hustedt 1-29

- S Jaxon Lee 1-0
- S Ryder Meyer 1-0
- DE Hayden Harris 1-0
- CB Trevin Gradney 1-0
- DE Hank Nuce 1-0
- S Chrishawn Gordon 1-0
- LB Caleb Otlewski 1-0
- S Tyson Rostad 1-0

Pass breakups

- CB Trevin Gradney 10
- LB Ryan Tirrell 4
- S Chrishawn Gordon 4
- LB Riley Wilson 2
- S Tyson Rostad 2
- NT Jareb Ramos 2
- CB Kyon Loud 2
- S Jaxon Lee 1
- S Ryder Meyer 1
- LB Vai Kaho 1
- DE Hayden Harris 1
- DE Hank Nuce 1
- LB Garrett Hustedt 1
- DE Noah Kaschmitter 1
- NT Jake Mason 1

QB hurries

- LB Riley Wilson 7
- S Jaxon Lee 4
- DE Hayden Harris 3
- LB Caleb Otlewski 2
- DE Andres Lehrmann 2
- LB Garrett Hustedt 2
- LB Ryan Tirrell 1
- LB Vai Kaho 1
- CB Trevin Gradney 1
- DE Hank Nuce 1
- NT Jareb Ramos 1
- CB Kyon Loud 1
- NT Jake Mason 1

Fumbles forced-recovered

- DE Hayden Harris 3-2
- DE Hank Nuce 2-0
- S Jaxon Lee 1-2
- CB Ronald Jackson Jr. 1-1
- DE Andres Lehrmann 1-0
- S TJ Rausch 1-0
- CB Trevin Gradney 0-1

SPECIAL TEAMS LEADERS

PATs/Field goals

- K Ty Morrison 49-50/17-23, long 50, 0 blocked, 100 points

Punting

- P Ty Morrison 54-2308 (42.7 ypp), long 62, 17 fair catches, 11 inside 20, 2 touchbacks, 9 50+ yards, 0 blocked

Punt returns

- WR Junior Bergen 10-240 (24.0 ypr), long 84, 3 TDs
- WR Drew Deck 8-82 (10.3 ypr), long 28

Kickoff returns

- WR Junior Bergen 21-454 (21.6 ypr), long 41
- WR Xavier Harris 14-342 (24.4 ypr), long 76
- LB Isiah Childs 4-74 (18.5 ypr), long 27
- WR Aaron Fontes 3-66 (22.0 ypr), long 25
- DE Matai Mata’afa 1-(-1)



SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

Montana linebacker Cooper Barnum (40) runs drills during fall football camp on Aug. 9 at Dornblaser Field in Missoula.

Barnum hits home run on gridiron

Son of Portland State coach Bruce Barnum comes to love Griz

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

Cooper Barnum was not a Montana football fan growing up.

He was born in Pocatello, Idaho, and spent time there when his father, Bruce Barnum, coached at Idaho State. After three years

at Cornell, Bruce returned to the Big Sky Conference to coach at Portland State.

Cooper's opinion of the Griz became even more negative when his favorite Vikings player, running back Cory McCaffrey, got injured against the Griz in 2011 and missed the rest of the season after getting off to a strong start.

"I always hated the Griz because they were always so good," he said in the final week of his last season playing for Montana. "I'm

like, 'C'mon, dad, beat them this year? I hated the Griz growing up. And so it's funny that I ended up here."

Hate has turned to love, but it took Barnum going on a journey that was anything but conventional. It did help him get back to some normalcy.

He had spent his first two years of college playing baseball at Washington State. The results weren't what he wanted. Neither were his surroundings.

His mental health wasn't in a good spot.

"Once I got out of there, it was like a weight got lifted off my chest," he said. "Then coming here, this place changed my life. I was in such a slump. I hated waking up and doing everything over there. I pushed through it, but it wasn't fun. Entering the portal took a 1,000-pound dumbbell off my chest."

Barnum went from playing a sport that is largely mental to one

where physicality is key. He ended up back in football but at an unexpected place.

He came to Missoula ahead of the 2022 season to play defense and special teams. He had found a place where he felt wanted.

He noticed his mental health improving.

"Being around these guys and the coaches and them accepting me the way they did, it pushed me

See BARNUM, PAGE 6

Lehrmann relishes final run

Florida native moved from Youngstown State to Montana for 6th year

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

Andres Lehrmann made his impact felt right away at Montana.

The sixth-year senior collected 1.5 tackles for loss and one sack in his first game this fall after transferring to the Grizzlies to play defensive end. He ended the year with 32 tackles, four TFLs, two sacks, two quarterback hurries and one forced fumble while playing in all 14 games and making seven starts.

Lehrmann had joined UM in the offseason as he grad transferred from FCS Youngstown State with one season of eligibility remaining. The 6-foot-2, 246-pound native of Doral, Florida, had picked the Griz over offers from FBS team Old Dominion and FCS teams Incarnate Word and Mercer.

Lehrmann had spent his first five years playing in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. He tallied 59 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, one forced fumble and one pass breakup while playing in 39 games with the Penguins.

Lehrmann sat down with 406 MT Sports to talk about his final season of college football. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Q: What has this experience been like for you playing at Montana?

A: "It's amazing. The fans truly have a ton of passion. They expect greatness out of everyone. It really elevates my game. It takes it to another level. I love playing in front of them."

Q: How much did you know about the Griz football program before transferring here?

A: "I knew about them because of their title run last year. Even before that, being in the FCS for five years before, and six years now, Montana was always in playoff contention. I've always known about the Griz-



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana defensive end Andres Lehrmann runs drills during fall football camp on Aug. 12 at Dornblaser Field in Missoula.

zlies and their success?"

Q: You got to play in the playoffs at Youngstown, but how was the experience playing in a playoff game in Wa-Griz this year?

A: "Very different. I would say fans here definitely show out way

more than they do in Youngstown. Nonetheless, the environment here is just amazing. It's really one of one."

Q: What are you going to remember the most about your time here?

A: "Home games. Especially the

night games. Not going to forget that one bit."

Q: What are your favorite memories from those games or other games?

A: "Definitely our first game, our first home night game, against Missouri State. Last

drive of the game, Hayden (Harris) gets the first sack, I get the second sack and then Vai (Kaho) finishes it off with the third sack and then Griz win. That was a great memory."

See LEHRMANN, PAGE 7

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

406 MT Sports writers like Bobcats to cage Coyotes in FCS playoff semifinal

BILL SPELTZ
406 MT Sports

Tommy Mellott, The Pride of Butte, ranks at the top for me.

It's been almost two decades since I moved the family to Montana and started working in the Missoulian sports department. In that time I've seen a lot of electric FCS players that hail from the Treasure State, including Montana's Marc Mariani, Chase Reynolds and Junior Bergen and Montana State's Troy Andersen.

But when it comes to being consistently electrifying, play after play, Mellott has no equal. At least as far as I've seen live and in person in this great state we call home.



**BILL
SPELTZ**

69-16



**FRANK
GOGOLA**

70-15



**VICTOR
FLORES**

71-14

strategy by fine-tuning his passing accuracy. Actually it will be fun to see what Mellott can do on the pro level, perhaps even playing for Dickenson in Calgary!

Certainly there are other players to be

Now you have to keep in mind I was not around when Dave Dickenson was passing the ball all over the field for the Grizzlies. He's the standard by which all Treasure State FCS electrifiers are measured.

Mellott may never match what Dickenson has accomplished as a professional player and coach in Canada, but a January championship would surely put Touchdown Tommy on a pedestal in Bozeman. Bobcat fans would look upon him the way Grizzly fans look upon Dickenson, who is in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Beyond that, let's face it: The Pride of Butte is a hoot. He's a scrambling, passing, sneaky, cat-quick whiz kid. A dangerous stick of dynamite every time he takes a snap.

It's the versatility that has put Mellott over the top for me this season. Go ahead and stack that line of scrimmage to stop his run option prowess. We all know it's coming, including Mellott.

He's worked hard to foil that



SHAWN RAECKE, FOR THE CHRONICLE

Montana State quarterback Tommy Mellott scores a rushing touchdown against Idaho in the FCS quarterfinals on Dec. 13 at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman.

celebrated on the Montana State team. Mellott would be the first to admit he wouldn't be shining like a diamond without an imposing offensive line that gives him time and opens up gaping holes.

But there is only one Touchdown Tommy. He's the rarest of the rare in the Treasure State. Just like Super Dave Dickenson.

One big difference between the two, at least when it comes to college prowess, is Dickenson won an FCS title (back then it was called a Division I-AA title, but it's the same thing). Mellott has not won a national title and if he hopes to be mentioned in the same breath with someone like Dickenson, he needs that title.

In case you weren't aware, this is Mellott's last shot. He's down to his last bullet. After this season he's on to the Canadian Football League or some arena league or maybe a cup of coffee in the NFL or maybe even no more football at all.

No one knows that more than Mellott

as he prepares to lead his team into an FCS home semifinal Saturday against underdog South Dakota. The urgency has reached a peak. The Cats are going to look way different next season and probably won't be nearly as formidable and everyone knows it.

That makes Saturday a must-watch for FCS football fans across the West. Cats fans, Grizzly fans, Eagles fans, Aggies fans, Bengals fans, Lumberjacks fans ... we'll all be watching.

Here's a look at the playoff game involving the one Big Sky Conference team still alive (with seedings included): **No. 4 South Dakota (11-2) at No. 1 Montana State (14-0), 1:30 p.m., ABC.** The Coyotes didn't exactly impress the heck out of me in their 35-21 home win over UC Davis last Saturday. They turned the ball over three times and went 5 for 10 on third down conversion attempts. The Aggies might have won the game had they not turned the ball over a whopping six times. Beyond

that, the South Dakota offense didn't strike me as a unit that can match the high-octane Montana State offense. Granted, the Coyotes do have a bruising running back and their quarterback is capable. But Montana State's quarterback and running back corps are better. Plus the Bobcats' defense is mighty stingy. There's also the weather factor for Saturday's game in Bozeman. South Dakota plays its home games in a dome and will need to adjust to the Bozeman cold. For me, the three best teams in the FCS are Montana State, North Dakota State and South Dakota State. Look for the Cats to advance and face either NDSU or SDSU in an epic championship next month in Frisco, Texas. **Speltz:** Bobcats 40, Coyotes 21. **Flores:** Cats 31, Coyotes 24. **Gogola:** Montana State 34, South Dakota 23.

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Barnum

From 3

in the right direction and really set up my life,” he said. “Coach (Bobby) Hauck has done a great job with that, making sure I’ve been doing all right. He’s always checking in and making sure life is going good.”

Barnum had grown up loving football. He began playing flag football at a young age and got into the tackle version around third grade. He played running back and wore jersey number 25 like Reggie Bush donned in the NFL.

As a youngster, he even got to sit in the coaches’ box and wear a headset listening in on play calls and discussions when his father was coaching at Cornell and later at Portland State as the offensive coordinator.

That was Bruce’s second stop at Cornell. His first stint there in the 1990s was where he met his wife, Shawna Quigley. She was an assistant coach for the women’s basketball team back then.

“They were always like, ‘Do what you want to do,’” Cooper said of his parents. “There was no pressure from my family. My dad was like, ‘Yeah, go ahead and play baseball. I’m not going to pressure you to play football or play for me.’”

Cooper is the younger of two siblings. His brother Brody Barnum is about three years older. He was also bigger than Cooper. Getting regularly beat at things by his older brother gave the youngster something to strive toward.

His brother’s decision to play baseball at Washington State helped influence Cooper’s choice to join the Cougars. He had initially decided on college baseball over football because he thought it would be more realistic to be drafted by an MLB team than it would be



MISSOULIAN FILE PHOTO

Montana coach Bobby Hauck, left, and Portland State coach Bruce Barnum greet each other after the Grizzlies’ win in November 2019 in Hillsboro, Oregon. Hauck has coached Barnum’s son, linebacker Cooper Barnum, over the previous three years in Missoula.

by an NFL team.

He made two appearances as a true freshman in spring 2021, giving up five earned runs in one inning. That increased to nine appearances with two starts in 2022 and a 3.14 ERA in 14.1 innings. He entered the transfer portal, got other baseball offers but wasn’t feeling how he thought he would.

“I took a visit to Central Michigan, saw all the championships and I’m like, ‘This is sweet,’” he said. “I loved the coach and the pitching coach. I loved everything about it. But for some reason I didn’t want to commit. On my flight back home, I’m like, ‘What the heck?’ That’s when I realized maybe I don’t love baseball as much as I thought I did anymore.”

Barnum called his father to talk. He floated the idea of returning to football after two years away. He had received several offers from Big Sky teams in high school and thought someone might still be interested.

It turned out Montana was open to bringing him in. Hauck had offered Barnum in high school on the field at PSU’s Hillsboro Stadium before the teams played in 2019.

The Griz added him

prior to the 2022 season as a walk-on. He felt back at home with football while finding a new home in Missoula.

“Weird enough, you miss feeling the hurt the next day,” he said. “In high school, you play both sides of the ball and the next day you wake up and every muscle hurts, everything’s sore and stiff. I was like, ‘I miss that feeling.’ I missed hitting people. And I missed that there’s more to it than baseball, which is pretty individualized. It’s 11 on 11 each play and there’s a scheme.”

Barnum had started out playing safety when he arrived at Montana right as 2022 fall camp was getting underway. He had to learn a new and complicated 3-3-5 defense in quick order.

He was also working back into football shape. He felt he was undersized coming in at 6-foot-2 and 200 pounds. Being a pitcher hadn’t required much weight lifting because he was more concerned with taking care of his arm.

He ended up totaling two tackles that first year as he appeared in seven games on special teams and as a backup safety.

“It was awful,” he said.

“Coach Hauck said we’re going to start you at safety. I didn’t think I was fast enough. We played a lot of man coverage and I never played man coverage in my life. I probably looked like it. I was not in shape. I was not ready for football. It took a year and a half to get my body right.”

Barnum hit the weight room more and worked his way up to 223 pounds. As he put on weight, he moved to linebacker before the 2023 season. He had experience there having played linebacker and receiver in high school.

He played in all 15 games, totaling 14 tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack as the Griz won the Big Sky title and finished as the national runner-up. He added nine tackles in 12 games in 2024 in his final season.

More memorable than those stats has been getting

to be on the field for seven of Junior Bergen’s FCS record-tying eight punt return touchdowns. He played on all four of the special teams units at some point during his time at UM.

“I’m most proud of the friendships I’ve made and the coaches I’ve met who have pushed me in the right direction,” he said. “Going through wedding planning now, I enjoy picking my groomsmen and I’m even going back to people at Washington State who I still stay in touch with.”

Barnum, who will be marrying high school sweetheart Mariah Jensen, never expected to be in college for five years. For one, he thought he’d spend three years with baseball and hopefully get drafted. Also, school was not his thing.

He finished high school with a 3.2 grade-point average, he said. In fall 2023,

he got his bachelor’s degree in communications studies with cum laude distinction for a GPA between 3.4 and 3.69 before going to grad school.

Barnum’s winding journey to Missoula was a bit of a circuitous circus ride. He never envisioned himself rocking the maroon and silver but found his golden opportunity with the Griz on the gridiron.

“I couldn’t be more happy being a Griz now,” he said. “It’s awesome. It’s the best place in the FCS. We have it all here. The fans are badass. I’m a Griz for life now, which is awesome. I never thought I’d say that in a million years.”

Frank Gogola is the Senior Sports Reporter at the Missoulian and 406 MT Sports. Follow him on X @FrankGogola or email him at frank.gogola@406mtsports.com.



Lehrmann

From 4

Q: You had said coming in that you thought a three-man defensive front might be a good fit for you. How do you feel that worked out?

A: "I definitely wish I had another year because I feel with this defense and two years of experience, it might have been a little bit better on the production sheet. Nonetheless, I love it. Four-down (linemen), it's more just hold down your gap, but three-down (linemen), especially in this one, we move a lot, and it gives you a lot of opportunities to make plays."

Q: Having played in every game this year, how has the body held up?

A: "Sixth year going around, so it's there, it's holding up. It's actually

pretty good. It's way better than I expected."

Q: Why is that? Did you do anything unique this season?

A: "I've been cold tubbing a lot more. It's more so since I've been out here in Montana. I've been doing natural rivers."

Q: How has that been helping you?

A: "It definitely helps you as an athlete because being here in Montana, it gives you a chance to go out and disconnect for a little bit and get in the river, get your body right and come back and lock back in and focus on your assignment."

Q: After playing in both the Missouri Valley and Big Sky, how would you compare what people consider to be the top two FCS conferences?

A: "I would say the MVFC is like the SEC and the Big Sky is like the Big Ten. So,

two perennials, two big-time college football conferences. It's really not that far off from the MVFC, maybe not even at all. There's some good ball being played here for sure."

Q: Looking back on your experience, do you feel like you made the right choice spending your last year at Montana?

A: "100%. I would not change this at all. Just the experience that it brought. It's really the mecca of FCS football. You don't believe it until you're in it. And then it definitely lived up to its name."

Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your time at Montana?

A: "Montana is a great place. If you really want to compete for a championship, then I would say definitely consider coming here."



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana running back Stevie Rocker Jr. (21) runs the ball against defensive end Andres Lehrmann (55) during the spring football game on April 12 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula.



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